

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending. Claims 3-5 are allowed. By this Amendment, Claims 1-2 are amended and Claim 6 added. As support for the amendments and new claim can be found in the originally filed application, such as, paragraph [0030] and/or Figure 1, Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is presented herein.

Allowed Claims

Applicants respectfully acknowledge and appreciate the indication by the Examiner that Claims 3-5 are allowed.

Allowable Claim

Applicants further respectfully acknowledge and appreciate the indication by the Examiner that Claim 2, although objected to for an informality therein, would be in condition for allowance if amended to address the informality. As Claim 2 is amended herein in a manner addressing the informality identified in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit Claim 2 is also in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 56167952 to Hachisuga et al. (Hachisuga). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites the transmitting system includes, among other features, the pump impeller and output drum are integrally coupled to an outer periphery of a common hub by welding. According to the invention recited by Claim 1, the pump impeller and output drum are thus constructed as a single component via the common hub by welding

before being assembled into the transmitting system, thereby easily and simply achieving, by machining, the concentricity of the pump impeller and output drum.

Hachisuga fails to disclose or suggest such a feature.

Rather, as shown in Figure 1 of Hachisuga, the pump impeller (8) is connected to the clutch housing (9) of a centrifugal clutch via a right-side cylindrical end portion of the housing (8). A ball bearing is mounted around the outer periphery of the cylindrical end portion of the pump housing (8). Accordingly, the housings (8) and (9) are connected together after the housing (8) is assembled in place. Further, after the housing (8) is assembled in place, the ball bearing is mounted around the outer periphery of the cylindrical end portion of the housing (8) and connected thereto by a spline, i.e., not by welding. Applicants respectfully submit that if the housing (8) and (9) were integrally connected beforehand by welding, which is the feature of the present invention recited in Claim 1, it would then not be possible to mount the ball bearing shown in figure 1 of Hachisuga to the illustrated position. Hence, Hachisuga not only does not disclose or suggest the features recited by Claim 1, but also fails to produce the benefits and advantages flowing therefrom.

To qualify as prior art, each and every feature of a rejected claim must be disclosed or taught by the applied art of record. As explained above, Hachisuga fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature recited by Claim 1. As such, Applicants respectfully submit Hachisuga does not anticipate or render obvious that which is recited by Claim 1, wherein Claim 1 should be deemed allowable over Hachisuga.

Claim 6 depends from Claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that this dependent claim be deemed allowable for at least the same reason Claim 1 is allowable, as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding objection and rejection, allowance of Claims 1-6, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing docket number 107348-00380.**

Respectfully submitted,

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